Loeb, Jacques

The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research

Aug 1917

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Loeb, Jacques

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THE ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE
FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH,
66TH STREET AND AVENUE A,
NEW YORK.

August 28, 1917.

My dear Sir Robert:

At the suggestion of Professor Mavor I take the liberty of conveying to you my knowledge of the personality and the scientific character of Professor T. Brailsford Robertson of the University of California. Prof. Robertson is an Englishman but was educated in Adelaide, Australia, where Prof. Bragg, the famous physicist, now of the University of Leeds, England, took a special interest in him. About a year or two ago Bragg offered him a position as biochemist at Leeds, but Robertson had to refuse it since the stipend, 500 pounds, was at that time inadequate on account of the fact that Robertson as a student had incurred financial obligations which he had to pay off. His position in Berkeley, California, which brings him, I think, about four thousand dollars, allowed him to do so. Robertson, who is now about thirty years old, is one of the most brilliant men I have met. He is not only a thorough biochemist but he is an equally thorough mathematician and physicist, and a little book for children, which he wrote for his amusement, under the title "Mayonnaise and the Universe" is easily the most charming book of that kind ever written. During the last summer he gave a course of lectures on the History of Science. I mention all this to show the universality of his interests and ability. He is an unusual lecturer and extremely popular as such with the students. His lectures are not only attended by the regular medical men but by a great many outsiders who simply hear them for the charm and brilliancy of his delivery.

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The same originality which characterizes the man in general appears also in his work. He is extremely prolific and the only criticism that has been made and could legitimately be made is that his ease of production and his abundance of ideas make him a too rapid producer; but I am sure that this will remedy itself in time, if it needs to be remedied.

His personality is charming and he is admired by all who come in contact with him.

Hoping that you will forgive this intrusion, I remain,

Yours very sincerely,

Jacques Loeb

Sir Robert A. Falconer,
President of the University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

August 31st, 1917

Dr. Jacques Loeb,

The Rockefeller Institute,

66th Street and Avenue A,

New York.

Dear Sir:

In the absence of President Falconer I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your letter regarding the attainments of Professor T. Brailsford Robertson of the University of California. The President will return to Toronto about September 10th when your letter will receive his attention.

Yours very truly,

President's Secretary.

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September 10th, 1917

Professor Jacques Loeb,

Rockefeller Institute,

66th and Avenue A.,

New York.

My dear Professor Loeb:

On my return from Halifax I find your letter awaiting me. It was exceedingly kind of you to take the trouble to write me at such length about Professor Robertson, and I am deeply indebted to you for your estimate and for the pains that you have taken. The name of Professor Robertson came before us through Professor Macallum, who was of the opinion that for one reason or another we could hardly look to him. Your letter, however, changes the situation and I shall refer it to my committee as soon as possible. We have already taken some preliminary steps in regard to Biochemistry, but have not gone so far as to have fixed anything definitely. I know that your opinion will carry great weight with my committee. Again thanking you for your kindness,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.